Docket No.: S9025.1179

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Michael W. Leonard et al.

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FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS PCT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the aboveidentified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.